

MAG-36 NEWSLETTER

April—May 2011



From Thailand to Tomodachi

After spending a month in Thailand as part of a multi-national training exercise, MAG-36 was called to duty to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the citizens of our host nation following the tragic March 11th earthquake and tsunami that struck off the coast of Sendai, Japan.

The Thailand exercise, formally known as Cobra Gold, is a regularly scheduled exercise between the U.S. and Thai military. Additional participating nations were: Republic of Singapore, Japan, Republic Indonesia, Republic of Korea, and Malaysia. Cobra Gold includes a staff exercise, field training, and community assistance programs.

More than 1500 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) Marines and Sailors participated in this annual event; this year was no different. What was different this year is that MAG-36 barely got the chance to unpack when the Marines and Sailors were called to apply their learned points in support of Operation Tomodachi (translated, tomodachi means friend).

In the late afternoon of March 11th, a 9.0 earthquake struck off the northern coast of Japan that caused a massive tsunami which devastated Sendai and the surrounding areas. Illustrating their posture as a ready force, within 24-hours, MAG-36 Marines and Sailors responded to assist our host nation.



In the time since, MAG-36 has been working around-the-clock to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. MAG-36 Marines and Sailors have flown over 500 missions to deliver thousands of pounds of food, water, fuel, medical supplies, and blankets to those affected.

From training to real-world, MAG-36 continues to demonstrate its capability to remain ever ready to operate in any climb or place. While an operational suspense date cannot yet be determined, the MAG-36 commander,

Colonel Brassaw, is confident MAG-36 Marines and Sailors will approach each day, each mission, and each call to duty with the same level of professionalism that has long marked this storied organization.



Single Marine Day

Jan 21st, single Marines and Sailors break bread and build camaraderie. Being stationed overseas can be a challenge, but MAG-36 gives special attention to help create a home away from home.

MOL Transition

Stay connected. As of Feb 1st, the Marine Corps has transitioned to a new mass communication tool. In an effort to empower the individual Marine in maintaining their family readiness, the Corps has built a communication tool into Marine Online (MOL).

The MOL communication tool will eventually provide the command with the same capability it possessed with the Mass Communication Tool (MCT). At present, the MOL communication tool only communicates via email. Soon, it will add SMS text messaging and telephonic communication.

Each Marine is authorized to add four contacts to their distribution list. Married personnel are required to list their spouse as a contact; the other three are up to their discretion (i.e. friend or family). Single Marines are free to list four contacts of their choosing but must list at least one (i.e. family member, friend).

Once added, listed contacts will receive command information (i.e. newsletters, commander's messages, and event listings) along with important operational updates and base notifications.

It's important to note that the communication tool does not replace the next of kin notification process; the MOL communication system is only for official information. Persons listed as a Marine's next of kin will continue to be notified on matters personal to that individual as indicated in the Marine's Record of Emergency Data (RED).

Initiating or updating contact information is easy. Marines first need to access their MOL account. Once in their account, they must click on the 'Personal Info' tab. At the bottom left under 'Personal Updates' is a 'Family Readiness' link. After entering this section, they can enter desired contacts.

For more information on the new communication tool and/or how to input contacts, call, write, or visit the MAG-36 family readiness officer.

Did you know?

Keeping your computer on all the time might not run up your power bill—it all depends on the computer's settings. All modern computers have power-saving settings that can be tweaked to suit how you use the computer. Most recent computers use little to no power when they are in sleep mode, so setting up rules for your computer to automatically enter sleep mode when it's not being used is one of the easiest ways to save some electricity. *Also important:* Don't bother running screen savers. They do not save energy in most cases. Screen savers were created to avoid a problem called "screen burn," in which a static image would become "burned" onto a monitor. Modern screens do not suffer from this problem.

David Boyer *Bottom Line Personal* January 1, 2011. Volume 32 Number 1 (p. 13)

Bounce houses may contain high levels of lead. According to the Center for Environmental Health, some children's bounce houses contain more than 70 times the federal limit for lead. *Self-defense:* Be sure that children wash their hands and faces with soap and water after using bounce houses to avoid the effects of lead exposure. Once you get home, have children change clothes and then put the clothes in the washer.

The Center of Environmental Health works with major industries and leaders in green business to promote healthier alternatives to toxic products and practices. Retrieved Mar 24, 2011. www.ceh.org

You cannot exaggerate about the Marines. They are convinced to the point of arrogance, that they are the most ferocious fighters on earth—and the amusing thing about it is that they are.

Father Kevin Keaney 1st Mar Div Chaplain Korean War

Feedback Forum

Your feedback is invaluable.
Help the command help you
by providing feedback to your
family readiness officer.

brent.e.fisher@usmc.mil



2011 Road Tax Collection Schedule

Starting in May, the Joint Service Vehicle Registration office will be touring Okinawa camps to assist you with this annual requirement.

Road tax must be paid in Yen. Community Bank will be onsite for Yen conversion. To make your payment, you will need to bring the following documents:

- Military registration
- 2010 road tax receipt
- Vehicle title
- Japanese compulsory insurance
- American insurance

Fees are determined by your license plate category:

- 40/400, 50/500, 77/78 ¥7,500
- 33/300 (below 4500cc) ¥19,000
- 33/300 (above 4500cc) ¥22,000
- 11/100, 88/800 ¥32,000



Mini-car and motorcycle taxes must be paid at a local city, town, or village office.

Vehicles not deregistered by April 1st must pay road tax. All vehicles must display a 2011 road tax sticker by June 1, 2011.

Take notice of the collection points:

Camp Kinser "Surf Side"

May 6 (0930-1530)

Kadena Air Base "Keystone Theater"

May 9-13 (0930-1530)

Camp Foster "Theater"

May 16-18 (0930-1530)

Camp Courtney "Theater"

May 19-20 (0930-1530)

Torii Station "Soldiers Center"

May 23 (0930-1530)

Camp Hansen "The Palms"

May 24 (0930-1430)

Camp Schwab "Camp Services"

May 25 (0930-1430)

Commanding Officer

Col Mike Brassaw

Operations Officer

[LtCol Kevin Glathar](#)

Executive Officer

[LtCol Zach Woodworth](#)

Logistics Officer

[Maj Cameron Renner](#)

Sergeant Major

[SgtMaj Laura Brown](#)

Communications Officer

Lt Leo Niewieroski

Adjutant

Capt Jose Beaton

PSD Commanding Officer

[Maj Doug Nelson](#)

Intel Officer

[Capt Lee Mersek](#)

Family Readiness Officer

Brent Fisher

Judging Others

Have you ever noticed that we tend to judge others by their actions and ourselves by our intentions?

Think about the last time you were driving down the road and had another driver cut-you-off. How did you react? Did you flail your hands in the air while indicating with your hand that the other driver was “#1?” Maybe you were a bit less animated but more creative with an attempt to rename the person. Regardless of your reaction, the event probably did not rank highly as one of the most pleasant events of that day.

If you have been driving for more than about three days, chances are you’ve experienced such a situation. But how often have we done the same to another? How often have we, being absent of mind not of heart, cut-off another driver?

As human beings, too often we make assumptions about others because of how we feel their actions affect our life. Generally, we develop such assumptions based on perceived threats. When another interrupts our life cycle, we cast judgment on their actions, and then rationalize our frustration. Although we have each unintentionally interrupted another person’s life, when we do, we immediately seek forgiveness. We do this because we did not *intend* to be disruptive.

When we find ourselves in such situations, we should ask ourselves a number of questions. What was the other person’s intent? Are we willing to forgive? Can we remain humble enough to apologize when we disrupt another’s life?

Answering these questions becomes especially important during times of deployment. Being separated makes us susceptible to misinterpretation. Service members may feel their family is not being proactive when tending to family matters. Family members may at times feel they are not as important as the service member’s mission.

The best medicine for overcoming these challenges is effective communication. A great rule for fostering good communication is to *listen* without defending, and speak without offending. Attempt to view the situation through the lenses of the other person. As best you can, try to assume the other person is well intended and that their actions, if disruptive in your mind, were unintentional.

What we should not do is justify our negative response to another person’s actions. Remember, we’ve probably committed the same unintentional act at some point in our life. But, if all else fails, we can always seek to get a blood transfusion to “B positive.”



Shop Talk

What do you like best about Okinawa?



Lcpl Watkins

“The food and culture”



Sgt Kary

“Sites and activities”



Cpl Emond

“Traveling the Asian region”

Important Numbers

Family Readiness Officer

636-2216

Chaplain’s Office

636-3016

Duty Chaplain

636-3100

MAG-36 GDO

090-6861-4884

American Red Cross

645-3800 (day and night)

Counseling & Advocacy

645-2915

Navy Relief Society

645-7808

Tricare

643-75.39

Single Marine Program

645-3681

WIC

645-9426

If I only knew?

If I only knew then what I know now? How many times have you asked yourself this question? If you're like most, probably more times than you care to consider. To add salt to the wound, you probably remember then hearing those that had gone before you espouse the exact same sentiment. The good news is you can stop the vicious cycle.

Your financial future is largely dependent upon what you do today. The Personal Services Center offers a wide array of financial planning classes for free to keep you from having to repeat the painful aforementioned statement.

Home Buying Workshop

Learn about interest rates, points, closing costs, escrow accounts, earnest money, selecting an agent and processing a VA loan.

Thrift Savings Plan Workshop

This workshop will explain how to effectively manage your TSP retirement account, to include avoiding redundancy and allocating contributions.

Basic Investing

This class provides an overview on stocks, bonds, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), 401Ks, and mutual funds. The class also covers controlled spending plans and establishing an emergency fund.

Credit Report and Credit Score Analysis

Learn how to cope with a credit crisis and establish an action plan for building, rebuilding, and maintaining your credit rating.

Estate Planning

This class covers the arrangements you make during your lifetime that are consistent with your wishes for the administration, disposition, and transfer of your wealth and worldly possessions to your dependents and others when you die (i.e. legal aspects, estate inventory, probate, community property).

For more information on these courses, contact the family readiness officer. Don't say, "I wish I would have," again!



MAG-36 Change of Command

*Colonel Robert Brassaw
Will relinquish
command to
Colonel Jeffery Arruda*

*At 0900
May 26, 2011
MCAS Futenma*

Calendar Notes

CREDO Retreat
April 8-10

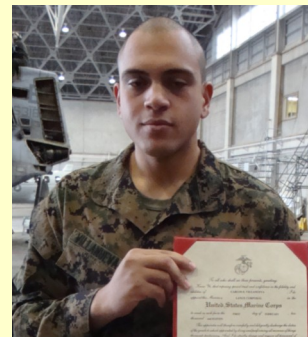
L.I.N.K.S. for Spouses
April 14

Kids Yoga
April 14

Volunteer Luncheon
April 29

Mother's Day
May 8

Promotions



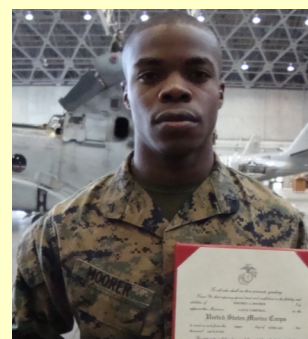
LCpl Villanueva



LCpl McGee



LCpl McCoy Morales



LCpl Moorner